

Final 2006 Legislative Session Report WRAC Version

The 2006 Legislative Session has concluded and it was a significant year for water in Florida.

One of the most significant issues was the purchase of Babcock. Next session, there may be debate about the land management plan. Debate will revolve around maintaining some activities on the property that would help fund the properties land management plan such as cattle operations, etc.

Another important issue will be the HB 1123 that creates a review commission to take a look at each agency of the state and ensure that the work conducted by the agency is still warranted. Of course, water management districts and FDEP are the first agencies to be looked at. We welcome this review and will be back before you as the commission completes its review of the WMDs.

More importantly – lets talk about money! The South Florida Water Management District has received over **\$221,000,000** in state appropriations. Below is a breakdown of projects funded:

Save Our Everglades Trust Fund	\$135,000,000
<i>(Of this \$135,000,000 Biscayne Bay and C-111 projects receive \$25,000,000 and Loxahatchee River additional water storage opportunities receive \$10,000,000.)</i>	
Lake Okeechobee Restoration	\$25,000,000
Alternative Water Supply	\$18,000,000

CBIRs - District Sponsored Projects

1. Big Cypress Watershed Initiative	\$500,000
2. C-51 Sediment Management	\$500,000
3. East County Water Control District	\$500,000
4. Estero Bay Watershed	\$800,000
5. Fort Myers/Caloosahatchee Watershed Initiative	\$500,000
6. Indian River Lagoon Restoration	\$7,250,000
7. Indian River Issues Team	\$12,078,331
8. Kissimmee Upper Basin Restoration	\$1,400,000
9. Lake Region Water Plant	\$4,000,000
10. Lake Okeechobee (LOER and LOPP)	\$6,200,000
11. Loxahatchee River Restoration Initiative	\$3,722,550
12. Naples Bay Watershed Initiative	\$800,000
13. Palmetto Bay Stormwater System Improvements	\$250,000
14. St. Lucie Issues Team	\$4,023,458
15. Royal Palm Beach Stormwater	\$500,000
16. Weston Stormwater	\$500,000

Other Significant Appropriations supported by the District

1. Keys Wastewater Management Plan Implementation	\$20,000,000.00
2. Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration	\$2,000,000.00
3. Lake Worth Lagoon Stormwater Infrastructure	\$500,000.00
4. South Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$1,000,000.00
5. West Palm Beach Drinking Water Algae Control	\$500,000.00

Other Significant Legislation

Bill	Description	Sponsor	Action
HB 1039	Lake Belt Mitigation – increases the price per ton of fees collected to grow the accounts for mitigation and adds a few parcels of property to the Lake Belt	Garcia	Ordered enrolled.
SB430/ HB265	Hunting Lands, No Net Loss – provides definitions; requires certain lands owned, managed, or leased by FWC to be used for purpose of hunting; requires commission to support, promote, & enhance hunting opportunities & to provide comparable acreage for any loss of existing hunting lands; requires agencies & water management districts to allow certain lands to be used for purpose of hunting; requires annual reports to commission & Legislature	Argenziano	Senate bill laid on table, refer to HB 265. House bill ordered enrolled.
HB6001/ SB428	General Travel Expenses/Reimbursement ; revises per diem, subsistence, & mileage rates for purposes of reimbursement of travel expenses of public officers, employees, & authorized persons. Breakfast....\$6 Lunch....\$11 Dinner....\$19 44.5 cents per mile \$80 daily reimbursement	Government Operations	House bill laid on table, refer to SB 428. Senate bill ordered enrolled.
SB1022	General Highways & Adjacent Canal/Guardrails ; requires that guardrails or other barriers be installed between highway & adjacent canal or waterway; requires that DOT adopt rules establishing certain standards governing installation of barriers; requires that barriers be installed for existing highways by specified date; defines term "highway"; provides for installation & maintenance of required barriers by DOT or local governmental entity that maintains highway adjacent to barriers	Bullard	Laid on table, refer to HB 959. House bill ordered enrolled.
SB2586/ HB1241	General Caloosahatchee-St. Lucie Rivers; creates Caloosahatchee-St. Lucie Rivers Corridor Advisory Council; provides definition; provides	Bennett	Both Senate and House bills died in committee. However, the substance of the

	for appointment of members, per diem & travel expenses, staff, & duties of advisory council; exempts staff from specified provisions re Career Service System; requires recommendations to the Legislature; requires report to Legislature & Governor by specific date; provides for expiration of advisory council		bills was amended to the House and Senate Approps implementation bill.
SB2098/ HB1299	General Areas of Critical State Concern; authorizes continued levy of tourist impact tax in areas of critical state concern removed from designation; provides requirements, procedures, & criteria of Administration Commission removal of designation of Fla. Keys Area as said area; revises powers of land authority in said area to acquire property to provide affordable housing; provides for continuation of land authority in said area, etc.	Bennett	Senate bill laid on table, refer to HB 1299. House bill ordered enrolled.

Saw the affirmative votes from Senate Committees confirming Carol, Alice, Mike and Bubba.